

# Rural District Council of Stow-on-the-Wold.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

Together with the Sanitary Inspector's Report for  
Year ending December 31st, 1913.

STOW-ON-THE-WOLD :

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1914.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health to the Rural District  
Council of Stow-on-the-Wold.

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my fourth Annual Report on the Vital Statistics and general Sanitary condition of the Stow-on-the-Wold Rural District, for the year ending December 31st, 1913.

The Stow Rural District is the most easterly District in the County of Gloucester, in which county it is for the most part situated; the exception being the two villages of Evenlode and Daylesford, containing 311 inhabitants, which are situated in two detached portions of Worcestershire.

The District is situated in the region known as North Cotswold; and its elevation varies between 380 and 800 feet above sea level. Some of the villages are perched on the hills, others are placed in the valleys.

The chief water courses are the Evenlode, the Windrush, and the Dickler, and they all flow eventually into the Thames.

The Geological formations found in the District are various, ranging from the Lower Lias Clay, found in the lower lying portions, through the Middle and Upper Lias Clays, to the Inferior and Greater Oölite.

The area of the District is 44,365 acres, exclusive of the area covered by water.

The number of inhabited houses at the last census was 1,810, and the average number of persons per house is 3·8.

The chief and practically the only industry carried on is that of Agriculture.

I estimate the population to be practically the same as at the last census, viz. : 7,114.

I here subjoin a Table, giving the names of the Parishes comprising the District and their population at the Census of 1901 and 1911 respectively.

Name of Parish.	Population.		Increase.	Decrease.
	Census 1901	Census 1911		
Adlestrop .. ..	190	156		34
Barrington, Great ..	433	400		33
Bledington .. ..	341	403	62	
Bourton-on-the-Water	1097	1153	56	
Broadwell .. ..	316	329	13	
Clapton .. ..	103	140	37	
Condicote .. ..	118	125	7	
Donnington .. ..	116	116		
Eyford .. ..	74	82	8	
Icomb .. ..	29	38	9	
Icomb, Church .. ..	120	120		
Longborough .. ..	462	470	8	
Maugersbury .. ..	210	222	12	
Naunton .. ..	401	440	39	
Notgrove .. ..	134	156	22	
Oddington .. ..	402	412	10	
Rissington, Great ..	347	335		12
Rissington, Little ..	186	201	15	
Rissington, Wyck ..	206	193		13
Sezincote .. ..	88	72		16
Slaughter, Upper ..	239	270	31	
Slaughter, Lower ..	243	244	1	
Swell, Upper .. ..	75	111	36	
Swell, Lower .. ..	341	423	82	
Westcote .. ..	202	192		10
Daylesford .. ..	85	88	3	
Evenlode .. ..	207	223	16	
Totals ..	6765	7114	467	118

The amount of money distributed as out-door Poor Law Relief during the year amounted to £1,073, against £1,016 last year.

The District is served by two Cottage Hospitals, one at Moreton-in-Marsh and the other at Bourton-on-the-Water. These are supported by voluntary contributions. The Board of Guardians pay the weekly charges for Poor Law patients.

## **VITAL STATISTICS.**

These will be found fully stated in the Statistical Tables required to be filled up by the Local Government Board, and which are appended to this Report.

### **Birth Rate.**

The number of births registered during the year is 150. These were born in the District; but in addition, four births occurred outside the District, whose parents usually reside in the District; this brings the total to 154, the largest number since 1908, and 20 more than last year.

This gives a Birth-rate of 21·6, against one of 18·83 last year. The average rate for the Rural Districts of Gloucestershire was in 1912 20·2, and that for the whole of the county 19·4. Of the births, 86 were males, and 68 were females. There were six illegitimate births, against three last year. Can this large increase of births be attributed to the premiums received under the Insurance Act?

### **Death Rate.**

The number of deaths registered as having occurred in the District was 112. To this number has to be added the deaths of seven persons who belonged to the District but died outside it, and one death of a non-resident occurred in the District and has to be subtracted; this leaves the net number of 118, against 99 last year, giving a Death-rate of 16·5, against one of 13·2 last year. The rate for the Rural Districts of the county in 1912 was 12·6, and for the whole county 12·6. Forty-nine of these deaths occurred in the age period of 65 and upwards; 22 were over 80, and six over 90. The number of deaths from zymotic diseases partly accounts for this considerable increase in the Death-rate.

### **Infantile Mortality.**

There have been nine deaths of Infants under one year old, against seven last year, giving an Infantile Mortality of 62·5, against 52·2. The rate for the Rural Districts of the county is 73, and for the whole county 72. One of the six illegitimate children born died.

### **Death Rate from Zymotic Disease.**

There were ten deaths from the so-called Zymotic or germ diseases, against two last year. Three were the result of Measles, two of Whooping Cough, two Influenza, two from Diarrhœa, and one from Diphtheria. This gives a Zymotic Death-rate of 1·4. This rate is undoubtedly high, but it can be accounted for by the exceptional wave of Infectious diseases that passed through the District from village to village during the year.

### **THE PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**

During the year I received 44 notifications of Infectious disease, against 26 last year. They consisted of five cases of Diphtheria, two of Erysipelas, 29 of Scarlet Fever, one of Enteric Fever, six of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and one of another form of Tuberculosis.

#### **Diphtheria.**

The five cases all occurred at Bledington. The first case was notified on August 26th. This child had been away on a visit, and it is possible contracted the disease when away; this case proved fatal from subsequent paralysis. The next cases were notified on Oct. 25th and Nov. 5th. They were next-door neighbours to each other. I found no definite connection with the first case. The last case occurred in a child some distance away, and was notified on December 18th, but though there were several other children in the cottage and isolation was impossible, no one else took the disease.

#### **Scarlet Fever.**

There was a single case at Lower Oddington, in a young man; the infection occurred in the Evesham Dis-

trict. There were cases at Mangersbury and Upper Swell, and also at the Station Farm. The chief out-break, however, occurred in the autumn, at Lower Slaughter, and spread from there to Lower Swell. This epidemic was introduced by a visitor to the village.

Altogether there were 20 cases by the end of the year. Fortunately none of the attacks proved fatal. Scarlet Fever is much easier to control than Measles and Whooping Cough, provided the first cases are recognised and isolated; some attacks are, however, attended with such slight malaise that Medical advice is not sought, and thus the disease has a chance of spreading. This happened at Lower Slaughter.

#### **Enteric Fever.**

There was a single case at Broadwell Hill, which recovered. He was an indoor servant, and his symptoms developed soon after he returned from a holiday.

#### **Erysipelas.**

There were two cases of this disease, one at Lower Slaughter and one at Clapton.

#### **Measles.**

This highly infectious disease pervaded the following parishes at different periods of the year:—Bourton-on-the-Water, Little Rissington, Lower Slaughter, Naunton, and Oddington. It was the cause of three deaths in children.

#### **Whooping Cough.**

Whooping Cough was also widely distributed; especially at Bourton-on-the-Water, Longborough, and Wyck Rissington. It caused two deaths.

#### **Mumps.**

Mumps were present at Great Rissington.

#### **Chickenpox.**

Chickenpox prevailed in different villages, 30 cases being reported to me by Head Teachers.

Altogether the District has suffered a most unusual



invasion by these various infectious diseases which children are so liable to contract. By the law of averages, and also by the immunity set up, we may hope to be free from such an invasion for some years.

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS.

On February 1st a further Tuberculosis order came into force, making it obligatory on Medical Practitioners to notify every case of Tubercular disease, whatever part of the body it attacks; before it was only notifiable if it attacked the lungs.

I have visited such cases of those notified to me where I have considered a visit might be acceptable and beneficial. Flasks have been supplied where necessary; Disinfection of the house has been carried out where a fatal result has occurred.

The Gloucestershire Joint Committee for Tuberculosis have adopted a scheme for the treatment of all necessitous cases in the County, whether Insured or not. In connection with this Scheme, three additional Dispensaries have been opened, one being at the old Fever Ward in the grounds of the Moreton-in-Marsh Cottage Hospital, to which patients from this District may find it convenient to go.

The Tuberculosis Officer attends there once a week; he is prepared to see patients that are able to attend, or visit them at their homes if necessary, and consult with their medical attendants as to diagnosis and treatment.

During the year I have been notified of six cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one of Tuberculosis of the kidneys. I regret to say that four of these cases have succumbed at the date of writing this report.

## INVESTIGATION OF OTHER DISEASES.

*Cancer* was the cause of ten deaths, being the same number as last year.

*Respiratory Diseases*, other than Tuberculosis, caused ten deaths.



*Diarrhœa and Enteritis*, two deaths.

*Brights' Disease*, three deaths.

Three deaths were due to violence.

There was no case of suicide, neither did any woman lose her life in child-birth.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.**

### **Water Supplies.**

BLADINGTON.—As you are aware the subject of the Water Supply of this village has been under your consideration. The village is entirely supplied by wells, and many of them are either contaminated or subject to contamination. I met your sub-committee on two occasions in the village, and so convinced were they that the condition of the water supply was bad, that acting on their Report, you appointed an engineer to estimate the cost,—1st, of conveying water by gravitation from Oddington; 2nd, by the cost of sinking a deep well, in suitable surroundings, with the necessary pumping station. As I understand you consider the expense of both these schemes too great for the Parish to bear, you have not proceeded with either of them. It is, however, my duty to point out to you that the water supply of this village continues in a very unsatisfactory condition.

There has been no change in the water supply of any of the villages in the District, and on the whole the District is well supplied with pure water.

### **Sewerage and Drainage.**

BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER and UPPER SLAUGHTER are the only villages with a system of sewage. In both cases the systems have been working satisfactorily.

BROADWELL.—The subject of the pollution of the Broadwell stream with sewage has been under your consideration. With your sub-committee I met the Inspector of the Thames Conservancy in the village. The Inspector gave us to understand, that provided the Sewage of this village was diverted from the stream, it was not the wish of the Conservancy to place the village to great expense, by causing them to adopt an orthodox scheme

of sewage. Acting on this advice, your Surveyor has prepared and is carrying out a simple scheme to carry the Sewage on to the land, which meets with the approval of the Thames Conservancy.

### **Scavenging.**

Owing to the closure of an old gravel pit that has been used as a tip for refuse, some of the inhabitants of Bourton found it very difficult and inconvenient to dispose of their ashes, etc. They presented a memorial to the Local Government Board on the subject, though your attention had not been formally directed to the question. On being requested to by your Council to report on the question, I did so, and advocated a system of public scavenging. Your Council at once acted, by making arrangements for the weekly collection of ashes and other refuse. I understand, on enquiry, that the inhabitants are very pleased with the arrangements made, and derive great benefit therefrom.

In the other villages of the District each tenant is responsible for the disposal of his own refuse.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

This consists of a few water closets in the larger houses, otherwise of privy vaults and pail closets.

### **Lodging Houses.**

There are no Lodging Houses or cellar dwellings.

### **Offensive Trades.**

The boiling of carcases of animals, not fit for human consumption, is carried on at two places in the District. In both cases complaints have been made of offensive smells, and no doubt it will be a question for your Council to consider shortly what restrictions shall be placed on this trade.

### **Schools.**

There are nineteen Elementary Schools in the District. Those I have visited during the year I have found in good sanitary order. The children are medically inspected, by specially appointed officers of the County Council.

During the year it has been necessary to close the following schools for the diseases specified :—

Bourton-on-the-Water, Mixed and Infants, for Measles.

„ „ Infants, for Whooping Cough.

Great Rissington, for Mumps.

Little Rissington, for Measles.

Longborough, for Whooping Cough.

Lower Slaughter, for Measles.

Naunton, for Measles.

Oddington, for Measles.

Wyck Rissington, for Whooping Cough.

### FOOD.

*Milk Supplies.*—There are 27 Dairies on the Register, and a considerable quantity of milk is exported.

My attention has not been drawn to the sale of any unsound food.

### Bakehouses.

There are 13 Bakehouses in the District. They have been inspected and minor defects remedied.

### Slaughter Houses.

There are three Slaughter Houses in the District. They are kept in a satisfactory condition

### Housing Act.

During the year, 189 cottages have been inspected. They have been situated in as many as sixteen parishes in the District. The defects have been similar to those I have mentioned in previous Reports, and were found in 137 instances. Informal notices have been given in every case, and as a general rule there has been no difficulty in getting the repairs carried out.

I append the following table :—

Number of houses inspected	...	...	189
Number with defects	...	...	137
Number unfit for habitation	...	...	0
Number of cases of overcrowding	...		4
Number of cases of overcrowding abated			4
Number in which defects were remedied...			104
Number being remedied	...	...	33

Three new houses have been erected during the year. There are no building Bye-laws.

On enquiry at Bledington, I believe there is a shortage of houses for the working classes. This has been brought about by the large number of Railway employees who reside in this village.

### **Workshops and Work-places.**

There are no large Factories or Workshops in the District, but there are seven small Factories and 38 Workshops. These have been inspected by the Surveyor, and minor defects found have been remedied.

The Sanitary administration of the District is carried out by the Surveyor and myself. I enclose Mr. Clifford's Report for the year with mine.

There is no Hospital accommodation for Infectious diseases, neither am I convinced of the necessity for one.

### **Adoptive Acts.**

There are no local or general Adoptive Acts in force, but there are regulations with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk shops.

### **Water Analysis.**

Twenty-three samples have been analysed during the year, most of them having been taken at Bledington.

### **Bacteriology.**

The usual facilities have been afforded Medical Men practising in the District with regard to examinations of Sputa Blood, etc., at Bristol University.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I beg to thank you and the officials of the Council for your support and consideration during the year, and remain,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT E. B. YELF,

M.B., & C.M.

*May 20th, 1914.*

## **Stow-on-the-Wold Rural District Council.**

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### **Report of the Sanitary Inspector, for the year ending December 31st, 1913.**

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my third Annual Report of the various sanitary works carried out in the District during the year ending December 31st, 1913.

#### **Housing and Town Planning Acts.**

During the year 189 houses were inspected, and of this number 104 were repaired or altered as required by the Acts.

Informal notices were as usual served upon the owners, and with the exception of one under Section 17, no formal notice was necessary.

Only three houses (and these of the better class) were erected in the District.

Four cases of overcrowding were abated.

#### **Water Supply.**

Twenty-three samples were taken and submitted for analysis.

A small extension to the public supply was carried out at Naunton.

The usual repairs necessary for the maintenance of the mains and the several parish pumps in the District were attended to.



### **Sewerage.**

Owing to the action of the Thames Conservancy, the drainage of Lower Swell has been diverted, and is now treated by a system of irrigation.

A similar scheme, from the same cause, is in hand at Broadwell.

Ordinary repairs to main drains have been carried out in several parishes.

The Sewerage Schemes at Bourton-on-the-Water and Upper Slaughter continue to work in a satisfactory manner.

### **Dairies and Cowsheds.**

There are now 29 persons registered. The premises have been periodically inspected.

Several improvements have been carried out, and the buildings generally are well kept and lime-washed.

### **Disinfection.**

Twenty houses were fumigated, and disinfectants supplied gratuitously to necessitous persons.

The Hospital Tents are in good order and ready for immediate erection should occasion require.

### **Factory and Workshop Acts.**

There are 38 Workshops, eight Factories and 13 Bakehouses on the Register. These have been inspected and found satisfactory.

There are no outworkers in the District.

### **Scavenging Order.**

Scavenging is now carried out at Bourton-on-the-Water, consequent on the closing of a private tip.

Yours obediently,

A. E. CLIFFORD.